

**In the Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A polypeptide comprising

(i) a leader sequence, the leader sequence comprising

(a) a secretion pre sequence, and

(b) the following motif:

-X<sub>1</sub>-X<sub>2</sub>-X<sub>3</sub>-X<sub>4</sub>-X<sub>5</sub>-

where X<sub>1</sub> is phenylalanine, tryptophan, or tyrosine, X<sub>2</sub> is isoleucine, leucine, valine, alanine or methionine, X<sub>3</sub> is leucine, valine, alanine or methionine, X<sub>4</sub> is serine or threonine and X<sub>5</sub> is isoleucine, valine, alanine or methionine (SEQ ID NO: 1); and

(ii) a mature desired protein ~~heterologous to the leader sequence~~.

2. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein X<sub>1</sub> is phenylalanine (SEQ ID NO: 2).

3. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein X<sub>2</sub> is isoleucine (SEQ ID NO: 3).

4. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein X<sub>3</sub> is valine (SEQ ID NO: 4).

5. (Previously presented) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein the amino acids of the motif are included in the polypeptide as substitutes, for naturally occurring amino acids.
6. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein X<sub>5</sub> is isoleucine (SEQ ID NO: 6).
7. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein the motif is -Phe-Ile-Val-Ser-Ile- (SEQ ID NO: 7).
8. (Previously presented) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein the secretion pre sequence is an albumin secretion pre sequence or a variant thereof.
9. (Previously presented) A polypeptide according to Claim 8 wherein X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>, X<sub>4</sub> and X<sub>5</sub> are at positions -20, -19, -18, -17 and -16, respectively, in place of the naturally occurring amino acids at those positions, wherein the numbering is such that the -1 residue is the C-terminal amino acid of the native albumin secretion pro sequence and where X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, X<sub>3</sub>, X<sub>4</sub> and X<sub>5</sub> are amino acids as defined in Claim 1.

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10. (Previously presented) A polypeptide according to Claim 9 wherein the albumin secretion pre sequence or variant thereof is a human albumin secretion pre sequence or a variant thereof.

11. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 10 comprising the secretion pre sequence MKWVFIVSILFLFSSAYS (SEQ ID NO: 28).

12. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein the leader sequence comprises a secretion pro sequence.

13. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 12 wherein the secretion pre sequence or variant thereof is fused by a peptide bond at its C-terminal end to the N-terminal amino acid of a secretion pro sequence, or variant thereof, thereby to form a pre-pro sequence.

14. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 13 wherein the secretion pro sequence is an albumin secretion pro sequence or variant thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 14 wherein the albumin secretion pro sequence is human serum albumin secretion pro sequence or variant thereof.

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16. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 15 wherein the secretion pro sequence motif is the yeast MF $\alpha$ -1 secretion pro sequence or variant thereof.

17. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 12 comprising the sequence:

MKWVFIVSILFLFSSAYSRY<sup>1</sup>Y<sup>2</sup>Y<sup>3</sup>Y<sup>4</sup>Y<sup>5</sup>

wherein Y<sup>1</sup> is Gly or Ser, Y<sup>2</sup> is Val or Leu, Y<sup>3</sup> is Phe or Asp, Y<sup>4</sup> is Arg or Lys and Y<sup>5</sup> is Arg or Lys, or variants thereof.

18. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 17 wherein Y<sup>1</sup> is Gly, Y<sup>2</sup> is Val and Y<sup>3</sup> is Phe; or Y<sup>1</sup> is Ser, Y<sup>2</sup> is Leu and Y<sup>3</sup> is Asp.

19. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to Claim 17 wherein Y<sup>4</sup> is Arg and Y<sup>5</sup> is Arg; Y<sup>4</sup> is Lys and Y<sup>5</sup> is Arg; Y<sup>4</sup> is Lys and Y<sup>5</sup> is Lys; or Y<sup>4</sup> is Arg and Y<sup>5</sup> is Lys.

20. (Previously presented) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein at least part of said motif is present in the secretion pre-sequence.

21. (Previously presented) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein the sequence of the desired protein is fused at its N-terminal end to the C-terminal amino acid of the leader sequence.

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22. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim 1 wherein the mature desired protein is albumin or a variant, fragment or fusion thereof.

23. (Original) A polypeptide according to Claim 22 wherein the albumin is human albumin.

24. (Currently amended) A polypeptide according to Claim ~~21~~ 1 wherein the mature ~~polypeptide~~ desired protein is transferrin or a variant, fragment or fusion thereof.

25. (Original) A polypeptide according to Claim 24 wherein the transferrin is human transferrin.

26. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a sequence that encodes the motif defined by Claim 1.

27. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 26 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 15.

28. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 26 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 16.

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29. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 26 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 17.

30. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 26 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 18.

31. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 26 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 34.

32. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 30 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 24.

33. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 32 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 25 or a variant thereof, which variant has the leader sequence of SEQ ID No. 24 and encodes a variant or fragment of the albumin encoded by SEQ ID No. 25.

34. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 30 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 27.

35. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 34 comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 21 or a variant thereof, which variant has the leader sequence of SEQ ID No. 27 and encodes a variant or fragment of the albumin encoded by SEQ ID No. 21.

36. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID No. 21 or fragment thereof.

37. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to any one of Claim 33 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a DNA sequence being a contiguous or non-contiguous fusion of a DNA sequence encoding a heterologous protein with either the DNA sequence SEQ ID No. 25 or the DNA sequence SEQ ID No. 21.

38. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide which is the complementary strand of a polynucleotide according to Claim 26.

39. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 26 comprising an operably linked transcription regulatory region.

40. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to Claim 39 wherein the transcription regulatory region comprises a transcription promoter.

41. (Withdrawn) A self-replicable polynucleotide sequence comprising a polynucleotide according to Claim 26.
42. (Withdrawn) A cell comprising a polynucleotide according to Claim 26.
43. (Withdrawn) A cell according to Claim 42 which is a eukaryotic cell.
44. (Withdrawn) A cell according to Claim 43 which is a fungal cell.
45. (Withdrawn) A cell according to Claim 44 which is an *Aspergillus* cell.
46. (Withdrawn) A cell according to Claim 44 which is a yeast cell.
47. (Withdrawn) A cell according to Claim 46 which is a *Saccharomyces*, *Kluyveromyces*, *Schizosaccharomyces* or *Pichia* cell.
48. (Withdrawn) A cell culture comprising a cell according to Claim 42 and culture medium.



49. (Withdrawn) A cell culture according to Claim 48 wherein the medium contains a mature desired protein as a result of the production of a polypeptide as defined in Claim 1.

50. (Withdrawn) A process for producing a mature desired protein, comprising (1) culturing a cell according to Claim 42 in a culture medium wherein the cell, as a result of the production of a polypeptide as defined in Claim 1, secretes a mature desired protein into the culture medium, and (2) separating the culture medium, containing the secreted mature protein, from the cell.

51. (Withdrawn) A process according to Claim 50 additionally comprising the step of separating the mature desired protein from the medium.

52. (Withdrawn) A process according to Claim 51 additionally comprising the step of formulating the separated mature desired protein with a therapeutically acceptable carrier or diluent thereby to produce a therapeutic product suitable for administration to a human or an animal.

53. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to any one of Claim 35 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a DNA sequence being a contiguous or non-contiguous fusion of a DNA sequence encoding a heterologous protein with either the DNA sequence SEQ ID No. 25 or the DNA sequence SEQ ID No. 21.

54. (Withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to any one of Claim 36 wherein the polynucleotide comprises a DNA sequence being a contiguous or non-contiguous fusion of a DNA sequence encoding a heterologous protein with either the DNA sequence SEQ ID No. 25 or the DNA sequence SEQ ID No. 21.

55. (Withdrawn) A process according to Claim 51 additionally comprising the step of further purifying the mature desired protein.

56. (Withdrawn) A process according to Claim 55 additionally comprising the step of formulating the thus separated and purified mature desired protein with a therapeutically acceptable carrier or diluent thereby to produce a therapeutic product suitable for administration to a human or an animal.

57. (New) A leader sequence for directing the secretion of proteins, said leader sequence comprising:

(a) a secretion pre sequence, and

(b) the following motif:

-X<sub>1</sub>-X<sub>2</sub>-X<sub>3</sub>-X<sub>4</sub>-X<sub>5</sub>-

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where  $X_1$  is phenylalanine, tryptophan, or tyrosine,  $X_2$  is isoleucine, leucine, valine, alanine or methionine,  $X_3$  is leucine, valine, alanine or methionine,  $X_4$  is serine or threonine and  $X_5$  is isoleucine, valine, alanine or methionine.

58. (New) The leader sequence according to Claim 57 comprising the secretion pre sequence MKWVFIVSILFLFSSAYS (SEQ ID NO: 28).